

WATSON JOHN Q ADAMS

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CONGRESSMAN

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Abraham Lincoln's Political Career through 1860

Death of John Q. Adams

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
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LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Abraham Lincoln took his seat at the first session of the Thirtieth Congress on December 6, 1847. After the usual roll call John Quincy Adams arose and moved that "the House proceed to the election of a Speaker." Whether or not Lincoln had ever before seen the Sixth President of the United States, now serving in the lower branch of Congress, we do not know, but this was probably his first glimpse of the venerable statesman. Upon the election of Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, as speaker, Mr. Adams administered the oath to the newly chosen officer.

It is doubtful if there was a single person in the House of Representatives at this time more revered and honored than the aged ex-President now in his eighty-first year. The fact that he was an old line Whig, whose name was second on the Whig roll call, caused his vote to serve as a sort of warning beacon to young congressmen like Lincoln.

It would be of very great interest if we could learn the reaction of Adams to Lincoln's famous "Spot Resolutions" read on the floor of Congress December 22, 1847. We do know they were in agreement on the Mexican War controversy. As early as 1839 Lincoln referred to Adams in a speech before the legislature at Springfield, when Lincoln had occasion to answer some political arguments put forth by Douglas and Lamborn. Lincoln compared the cost of government under Jackson and Van Buren with the John Quincy Adams economy, and made this assertion, "The last year of J. Q. Adams' administration cost, in round numbers, thirteen millions being about one dollar to each soul in the nation . . ."

It must have been pleasing to Lincoln to observe that Adams was taking a deep interest in the slavery controversy. On January 24, 1848 Mr. Adams presented "six memorials of inhabitants of the state of Pennsylvania, praying Congress to take measures for effecting such change in the Constitution and laws as shall abolish slavery throughout the Union in a manner that may be most consistent with justice and the rights and interests of every section of the country." It is apparent from these memorials and others of a like nature which the venerable congressmen presented that he was very active in his capacity as a representative from Massachusetts and became the spokesman for other constituents as well.

On Monday, February 21 while Congress was in session, and immediately after a vote had been taken on a question of military recognition in which both Adams and Lincoln were among those who had voted in the negative, Mr. John Quincy Adams became suddenly very seriously ill in his seat in the House. "On motion of Mr. Cook, the House, at twenty minutes past one o'clock p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 12 o'clock meridian."

On Thursday, February 24, the speaker announced the death of former President Adams in these words:

"Gentlemen of the House of Representatives of the United States:

"It has been thought fit that the Chair should announce officially to the House an event already known to the members individually, and which has filled all our hearts with sadness.

"A seat on this floor has been vacated, towards which our eyes have been accustomed to turn with no common interest.

"A voice has been hushed for ever in this hall, to which all ears have been wont to listen with profound reverence.

"A venerable form has faded from our sight, around which we have daily clustered with an affectionate regard.

"A name has been stricken from the roll of the living statesmen of our land which has been associated for more than half a century with the highest civil service and the loftiest civil renown.

"On Monday, the 21st instant, John Quincy Adams sunk in his seat, in presence of us all, by a sudden illness, from which he never recovered; and he died in the Speaker's room, at a quarter past 7 o'clock, last evening, with the officers of the House and the delegation of his own Massachusetts around him.

"Whatever advanced age, long experience, great ability, vast learning, accumulated public honors, a spotless private character, and a firm religious faith, could do, to render any one an object of interest, respect, and admiration, they had done for this distinguished person; and interest, respect, and admiration, are but feeble terms to express the feelings with which the members of this House and the people of the country have long regarded him.

"After a life of eighty years, devoted from its earliest maturity to the public service, he has at length gone to his rest. He has been privileged to die at his post; to fall while in the discharge of his duties; to expire beneath the roof of the Capitol; and to have his last scene associated for ever in history with the birthday of that illustrious patriot whose just discernment brought him first into the service of his country. . . ."

After the motions in the House with respect to the wearing the usual badge of mourning, it was "Resolved, that a committee of thirty be appointed to superintend the funeral solemnities." Abraham Lincoln was appointed a member of this committee, although a sub-committee was chosen from the group which did most of the planning, as Lincoln revealed in a letter to Rev. Henry Slicer on June 1, 1848.

At the close of the funeral services on Saturday noon a procession was formed to convey the corpse to the congressional burial ground. The Committee of Arrangements, on which Abraham Lincoln served, marched at the head of the procession, consisting of twenty-seven divisions. The Committee of Arrangements was also directed "to cause to be published 20,000 copies of the addresses made by the speaker and members of this House and of the addresses made in the Senate together with the discourse of the Reverend Mr. Gurley upon the occasion of the death of the honorable John Quincy Adams."

Most of the day following the funeral, the time in the House was utilized by the delivery of many eulogies to the departed Adams, and Lincoln must have been moved by them. The resolution to grant Adams' widow the franking privilege would also be of interest to Lincoln as a member of the Post Office and Post Roads Committee.

On June 20 another resolution relating to the lamented Adams was brought before the House. "Resolved that the Committee on the Library of this House be authorized to procure a monument of Quincy granite, with suitable inscriptions to be erected in the Congressional burying grounds in memory of John Quincy Adams." And still later on March 3, 1849 Mr. Ashmun presented a resolution that a bust of John Quincy Adams, by the artist John C. King, which had been procured by voluntary subscriptions, be placed in the Speaker's room "to mark the spot, and commemorate the circumstances of his death."

While we have no record of any conversation which may have passed between Abraham Lincoln and John Quincy Adams, the fact that both the sixth and the future sixteenth Presidents of the United States were members of the Thirtieth Congress is of interest.



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Congressman Abraham Lincoln Witnessed The Death-Stroke of John Quincy Adams February 21, 1848

As a member of Congress (30th Congress, 1st Session) Abraham Lincoln witnessed, on February 21, 1848, the death-stroke of the venerable John Quincy Adams in the House of Representatives. The session that day had been taken up with myriad legislation pertaining to public lands, patents, navigation, post roads, state boundaries and military affairs. However, it was not until Lucien B. Chase of Tennessee asked the consent of the House to offer a resolution extending the thanks of Congress to nine military officers of the Mexican War that violent partisan politics divided the Whigs and the Democrats.

Chase's resolution included the names of General D. E. Twiggs, Brevet Major General W. J. Worth, Brigadier General James Shields, Major General John A. Quitman, Brigadier General Franklin Pierce, Major General G. J. Pillow, Major General R. Patterson, Brigadier General Persifer F. Smith and Brigadier General George Cadwalader. The fifth paragraph of the resolution follows: "That these victories (enumerated in the first four paragraphs), following each other in quick succession, and wrung from the enemy under all circumstances, create a doubt which to admire the most, the skill and gallantry of the commanders or the indomitable courage of the soldiers, which prompted the band of heroes to press forward into the heart of the enemy's country, overcoming every obstacle, scattering the armies of Mexico like chaff before the wind, until the most signal triumphs are crowned by the possession of the far-famed 'Halls of the Montezumas'".

The resolution further provided that gold medals be struck with devices emblematical of the series of brilliant victories achieved, and that one be presented to each of the generals named in the resolution. Furthermore the President of the United States would be requested to communicate these resolutions to the generals who would in turn issue orders that they be read before the several corps of the army.

When Mr. Chase moved a suspension of the rules to allow him to introduce the resolutions, there were 110 yeas and 54 nays. Both Adams and Lincoln voted nay. To the Whigs of the House these resolutions smacked of partisan politics for the elevation and glorification of certain Democratic heroes. Then, too, the National Whig Party had never fully approved of the Mexican conflict. "Mr. Polk's War" was the focal point of attack by those who were opposed to territorial expansion, who were antagonistic to slavery and who harbored a resentment over the President's opposition to internal improvements, as well as by those who favored a high protective tariff.

As two-thirds of the members voted in the affirmative, the rules were suspended. Thereupon the resolutions were received and read for the first time. There next ensued considerable bickering and the usual parliamentary tactics either to pass or to defeat the bill.

When the query, "Shall the main question be now put?" was brought to a vote, there were 98 yeas and 86 nays. Again Adams and Lincoln voted nay. William H. Seward in his biography, "The Life and Public Service of John Quincy Adams", stated that when Adams voted (he was the first to answer the call of his name) nay, he re-

plied in an "uncommonly emphatic tone of voice". It was the last vote he ever cast.

Then when certain parliamentary procedures were being carried out by the Speaker and the Clerk, several gentlemen sprang from their seats to assist the member from Massachusetts. Adams appeared to be in the agonies of death and was sinking from his seat to the floor. He was immediately borne to the rotunda of the Capitol building for the benefit of purer air, and afterwards to the Speaker's room. During this distressing scene, Mr. Adams was assiduously attended by many members of the House. Once the confusion subsided, the House hastily adjourned.

The news of Adams' stroke was quickly sent to the members of the Senate, then in session. Mr. Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, with great feeling said: "I am called



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation Collection

John Quincy Adams

July 11, 1767 - Feb. 23, 1848

John Quincy Adams' four year term as the Sixth President of the United States came to an end in March, 1829. In 1831 he was sent to Congress as a representative from Massachusetts and served eight terms or a period of seventeen years lacking ten days. Perhaps his greatest contributions to the country were made while he served as Secretary of State under James Monroe.

on to make a painful announcement to the Senate. I have just been informed that the House of Representatives has this instant adjourned under the most afflictive circumstances. A calamitous visitation has fallen on one of its oldest and most valuable members — one who has been President of the United States, and whose character has inspired the highest respect and esteem. Mr. Adams has just sunk down in his chair, and has been carried into an adjoining room, and may at this moment be passing from the earth, under the roof that covers us, and almost in our presence. In these circumstances the whole Senate will feel alike, and feel wholly unable to attend to any business. I therefore move the immediate adjournment of the Senate." The Senate adjourned.

On Tuesday, February 22, 1848, the House convened at twelve o'clock, the usual hour. The proceedings were marked with deep solemnity and sadness. The Reverend Henry Slicer, the Congressional Chaplain, "performed the duties of his office with unusual impressiveness and tenderly and delicately attended to the venerable sage who lay in an adjoining room, unconscious of all earthly concern, on the verge of eternity".

This was Washington's birthday. Before Adams had suffered his stroke, Congress had made elaborate plans for a celebration of the First President's birthday. Lincoln of the House, and Stephen A. Douglas of the Senate were named the Illinois members of a board of managers for the staging of a "National Birth-night Ball". This was re-scheduled for March 1st because of the Sixth President's illness.

During the course of the House session on February 22nd the Speaker "deemed it proper to state to the House from the chair that his venerable colleague, John Quincy Adams, was still in a state of unconsciousness in the Speaker's room, and, in the opinion of his medical advisers, was rapidly sinking". With a motion for adjournment Mr. Joshua R. Giddings of Ohio suggested that the Journal of February 21st state the cause of its early adjournment. The Speaker was in agreement and directed the Clerk to record the melancholy circumstances.

As Mr. Adams still lay within the walls of the Capitol in a perilous condition, the Senate adjourned shortly after it convened on February 22nd, but not before Mr. John Davis of Massachusetts made a few felicitous remarks concerning the eminently distinguished Mr. Adams whom he considered to be one of the illustrious men of the country.

On Wednesday, February 23rd, after an appropriate prayer by Chaplain Slicer, and the reading of the Journal for February 22nd, the House adjourned on the motion of Mr. Daniel M. Barringer of North Carolina (during Lincoln's term in Congress he shared a desk with Barringer). The Senate, not being so deeply affected by Mr. Adams' illness, conducted a considerable amount of business.

Adams died at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 23rd, in the Speaker's room, and on the following day the House conducted a memorial service in his honor. The Speaker, Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, addressed the House and was followed by Mr. Charles Hudson of Massachusetts, Mr. Isaac E. Holmes of South Carolina, Mr. James McDowell of Virginia, Mr. William A. Newell of New Jersey, Mr. Frederick A. Talmadge of New York and Mr. Samuel F. Vinton of Ohio. Mr. Hudson, who followed the Speaker in his eulogy of Adams, moved the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That, this House has heard with the deepest sensibility of the death in this Capitol of John Quincy Adams, a member of the House from the State of Massachusetts.

"Resolved, That, as a testimony of respect for the memory of this distinguished statesman, the officers and members of the House will wear the usual badge of mourning, and attend the funeral in this Hall on Saturday next, at twelve o'clock.

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed to superintend the funeral solemnities.

"Resolved, That the proceedings of this House in relation to the death of John Quincy Adams be communicated to the family of the deceased by the Clerk.

"Resolved, That this House, as a further mark of respect for the memory of the deceased, do adjourn to Saturday next, the day appointed for the funeral."

Mr. Newell made the following additional resolution:



Photograph made from cut in Albert Shaw's book, "Abraham Lincoln — His Path to the Presidency," Vol. 1, page 143.

This early cut depicts John Quincy Adams at the moment he was stricken with paralysis in the House of Representatives on February 21, 1848. Most accounts of his death indicate that he never regained consciousness. However, Adams' last words are said to have been, "This is the last of earth; I am content."

"Resolved, That the seat in this Hall just vacated by the death of the late John Quincy Adams, be unoccupied for thirty days, and that it, together with the Hall, remain clothed with the symbol of mourning during that time."

Next, Mr. Talmadge made the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Speaker appoint one member of this House from each State and Territory as a committee to escort the remains of our venerable friend, the honorable John Quincy Adams, to the place designated by his friends for his interment."

All of the above resolutions were unanimously agreed to. The Speaker appointed the following, chosen without regard to political affiliation, to constitute a committee of thirty:

Mr. Talmadge, of N. Y.

Mr. Wilson, of N. H.

Mr. Ashmun, of Mass.

Mr. J. A. Rockwell, of Conn.

Mr. McIlvaine, of Penn.

Mr. Ligon, of Md.

Mr. Barringer, of N. C.

Mr. Lumpkin, of Ga.

Mr. A. G. Brown, of Miss.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio

Mr. Meade, of Va.

Mr. Hilliard, of Ala.

Mr. Morse, of La.

Mr. French, of Ky.

Mr. C. B. Smith, of Ind.

Mr. Gentry, of Tenn.

Mr. Wentworth, of Ill.

Mr. R. W. Johnson, of Ark.

Mr. Cabell, of Florida

Mr. W. Thompson, of Iowa

Mr. Hammons, of Me.

Mr. Collamer, of Vt.

Mr. Thurston, of R. I.

Mr. Newell, of N. J.

Mr. J. W. Houston, of Del.

Mr. Holmes, of S. C.

Mr. Phelps, of Mo.

Mr. C. E. Stuart, of Mich.

Mr. Kaufman, of Texas

Mr. Tweedy, of W. T.

Lincoln was appointed to a House committee to superintend the funeral solemnities. This information was gleaned from a letter dated June 1, 1848 which Lincoln wrote to the Reverend Henry Slicer, a Methodist minister and the Chaplain of the Senate. He stated that "the House ordered the raising of two committees, one, of Arrangements, number indefinite, the other, thirty in number, to attend the remains of Mr. Adams to Massachusetts." Lincoln was appointed to the Arrangements Committee. However, by some mistake, "a committee of thirty was appointed by the Speaker, as a Committee of Arrangements." At the first meeting the mistake was discovered and the members being too numerous for convenience, the work was delegated to a subcommittee. Lincoln was not a member of the subcommittee.

On Thursday, February 24th, the Senate devoted a considerable amount of time to business, but concluded the session with eulogies on Adams by Mr. John Davis of Massachusetts, and Mr. Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. Mr. Davis introduced three resolutions that were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the Senate has received with deep sensibility the message from the House of Representatives announcing the death of the Honorable John Quincy Adams, a representative from the State of Massachusetts.

"Resolved, That in token of respect for the memory of the deceased, the Senate will attend his funeral at the hour appointed by the House of Representatives, and will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

"Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect for the memory of the deceased, the Senate do now adjourn until Saturday next, to the time appointed for the funeral."

The Subcommittee of Arrangements made elaborate preparations for the funeral which was held on Saturday, February 26, 1848. A reporter for the *National Intelligencer* (*The Congressional Globe*, March 1, 1848, page 389) provided the following descriptive scene:

"At an early hour men in uniform might be seen hastening to their respective places of parade, while numerous groups of citizens and strangers were flocking from all directions toward the Capitol.

"By a judicious arrangement, the doors of that vast building were thrown open to the gathering multitudes, while those of the Hall of the House of Representatives, where the funeral ceremonies were to take place, were closed to all but the members and officers of the House. The ladies' gallery was rapidly filled up, all gentlemen without distinction being peremptorily excluded. A certain portion of the semicircular gallery (usually occupied throughout by gentlemen only) was partitioned off for the accommodation of a very large choir of singers, selected from those of the several churches of the city.

"The Hall was shrouded in black, and presented a very solemn appearance. This part of the arrangements was executed with great taste and judgment by the officers of the House, under the suggestion and kind supervision of a distinguished lady. The figure of History, especially, (whose graceful form surmounts the clock, holding in her hands a tablet and a pen,) was robed with consummate taste and judgment, the black drapery covering her entire person, with the exception of the arm holding the recorded pen, whose alabaster whiteness, in strong contrast with the surrounding stole, had a fine effect; heightened as it was by the attitude of the head, which, turning towards one side, happened to have its countenance in the very direction where stood the vacant seat of Mr. Adams, as if in the act of recording the solemn circumstances of his death. That seat, by order of the House, was draped in the deepest mourning, and, by the fact of its vacancy, recalled every beholder to the blow which had there fallen, like a thunderbolt from a cloudless sky. The portraits of Washington and of Lafayette, on either hand of the chair, were covered over with thin crape, casting a melancholy dimness over the features, without entirely concealing them, the frames being covered with a deeper black. The effect of this, too, was very fine, most truly representing what would have been the feeling of both those distinguished men, if alive to witness

Honourable Willie B. Mangum

and

Richard M. Thompson.

Washington D. April 1842

Gentlemen

I have received with deep sensibility, your kind invitation in behalf of the members of both houses of Congress, friends of Mr Clay, who propose to give him a dinner in this city on Saturday next, in testimony of their high respect for his patriotism, his public and private virtues, to participate with them upon this interesting occasion.

Sympathizing cordially with all the friends of Mr Clay in both houses of Congress, in the respect and regard for his public services, and personal virtues, I should with much pleasure have associated with them, in this honorary testimonial of these gentlemen, but for the advanced age and infirm health, which have for years interdicted my attendance at all public entertainments — a necessity, from which, if I could be permitted to indulge myself with any exception, I should eagerly availed myself of this occasion to make it.

I am with perfect, Gentlemen,

your friend and fellow-citizen

John Quincy Adams

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation Collection
This original letter reveals that John Quincy Adams was in failing health in 1842. He suffered his first stroke on November 19, 1846 while walking on the streets of Boston. After a period of four months he recovered sufficiently to take his seat in the House on February 16, 1847.

Military escort of Cavalry and Infantry, of Washington and Alexandria.

Band.

The Chaplains of both Houses of Congress.

Physicians who attended the deceased.

Committee of Arrangements.

Pall-Bearers:

Hon. J. J. McKay, N. C.	The Corps	Hon. Truman Smith, Conn.
Hon. Linn Boyd, Ken.		Hon. J. R. Ingersoll, Penn.
Hon. J. C. Calhoun, S. C.		Hon. T. H. Benton, Mo.
Chief Justice R. B. Taney,		Hon. Justice J. McLean,
General George Gibson,		Com. Charles Morris,
Hon. W. W. Seaton,		Hon. Thos. H. Crawford.

Mr. J. F. Harvey, Conductor of the Car.

The family and friends of the deceased.

The Senators and Representatives from the State of Massachusetts, as mourners.

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House.

The House of Representatives of the United States, preceded by their Speaker and Clerk.

The other officers of the House of Representatives.

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

The Senate, preceded by their President and Secretary.

The other officers of the Senate.

The President of the United States.

The Heads of Departments.

The Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, and its officers.

The Judges of the Circuit and District Courts of the District of Columbia, and its officers.

The Diplomatic Corps.

The Comptrollers, Auditors, and other Heads of Bureaus of the several Departments of the Government, with their officers.

Officers of the Army and Navy at the seat of Government.

Members of Maryland Legislature.

The Corporations of Washington and Alexandria.

The Columbia Typographical Society.

Officers and students of Georgetown College.

Officers and students of Columbia College.

Literary Institutions.

Fire Companies of the District.

Odd Fellows.

Citizens and Strangers.

From *The Congressional Globe*, March 1, 1848

Order of the Adams funeral procession enroute to the Congressional Burying Ground, Washington, D. C.

the solemn scene; for Washington gave the deceased his first commission, and Lafayette embraced him in his arms when taking his last adieu of America.

"The members gradually arrived and filled up their seats in the Hall, a portion, however, being reserved for the Senate.

"The space in the central area, in front of the Clerk's table was furnished with seats for the Judges, the Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps, and the Committee of Arrangements, consisting of one member from each State of the Union: while, in its centre, stood a table, covered with a black velvet pall, to support the corpse.

"Officers of the Army and Navy, as they entered the Hall, had seats assigned them next in the rear of the Foreign Ministers. By an unfortunate omission, no seats were reserved for the Clergy; but as a number of them arrived, not only from the city, but from Baltimore, Alexandria, and several from Massachusetts, they were conducted by the officers of the House to favorable positions.

"The members of the Diplomatic Body arrived severally, from time to time, and not in a body: some of them

manifested their respect for the solemn occasion, and for the presence of the assembled authorities of the nation, by appearing in their full official dresses, with their respective orders and decorations, while others seem to have deemed it more appropriate to appear in simple black. The contrast could not but strike the eye."

On the day of the Adams funeral the House and Senate met in joint session. The day was set apart "for rendering to the remains of the deceased patriot and statesman, the last human tribute." *The Congressional Globe*, March 1, 1848, page 389, provides a vivid word description of the proceedings:

"The Speaker having taken the chair, the Journal of Thursday was read. Soon after, the Senate entered, preceded by their presiding officer. He took his seat on the left of the Speaker. As the Senators passed up the centre aisle and took their seats, the Speaker and members of the House rose, and continued standing till they had taken the seats assigned them. Soon after, the President of the United States entered the Hall, and was received by all in like manner, while he took his seat on the right of the Speaker. The members of the Cabinet occupied seats in front of the Senators, and opposite to the Foreign Ministers. The Judges of the Supreme Court, preceded by their officers, passed up to seats on the right of the Clerk's desk. The relatives of the deceased were next conducted to a position reserved for them on the extreme left. Next entered the members of the Legislature of Maryland, preceded by the officers and chaplain of that body — the Legislature, sitting at Annapolis, having passed resolutions to attend the funeral. Next entered the corporate authorities of Washington, headed by their respective officers, who were conducted to places by the officers of the House. At length came the body, escorted by the Committee of Arrangements, and followed by the delegation of Massachusetts as mourners. The Speaker, the President of the Senate, the officers of both Houses, the members of the Committee of Arrangements, the pall bearers, and attendant physicians wore white scarfs. The whole assemblage being thus at length completed, the deep silence of expectation pervaded the Hall. Not a rude sound, and scarce a sound of any kind, was to be heard among the waiting thousands who crowded the galleries and lobbies in every spot where a human being could find room to stand.

"The Chaplain of the House, the Rev. Mr. Gurley, then rose and read an appropriate portion of Holy Writ, and addressed the throne of Heavenly Grace in a meek and devout prayer.

"He then read a hymn which had been selected for the occasion, and which was sung with admirable skill and impressive effect by the choir. As the wailing notes swelled and sank away in melancholy cadence, their placid, stilling, and solemnizing effect was obvious to the eye, in the countenances of the listening auditory, and prepared them for the address which followed, from these words in Job, 'And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning; and thou shalt be secure, because there is hope.' — (Chapter xi. 17.)

"The address was followed by a closing hymn and the Apostolic benediction, when the funeral procession began to be formed, the corpse was borne out of the Hall, the several public bodies fell into their place, passing in succession along the board aisle and through the north door into the Rotundo, and so out on the eastern portico, and down the great flight of steps to the open area in front, where carriages were in waiting to receive them.

"The procession then moved in the following order (see illustrative cut) to the Congressional Burying Ground, where the body was deposited, but in a few days is to be removed to Quincy."

While the whole proceedings were conducted with decorum and dignity, there was one unfortunate omission. No seats were reserved in the House Chamber for members of the Clergy, a number of whom had come from Baltimore, Alexandria and the State of Massachusetts. Although favorable seats were provided for them by officers of the House, the awkward situation did not go unnoticed.

On May 30th Lincoln received a letter from the Chaplain of the Senate taking him to task for his exclusion from a part in the services.

(To be continued in the April, 1963, issue)

tics . . . friends secured his selection to Congress . . . again he failed . . . constituents refused to return him to Washington."

Before running for Congress on his own initiative in 1846, he had served eight years in the Illinois legislature and was the leading Whig in the state. It was agreed before he was elected that he would serve but one term. His constituency endorsed him in 1854 by again electing him to the Illinois legislature.

6. "Friends . . . forced political situation which placed him in direct line for nomination to U. S. senate . . . Forced to step aside and yield office."

Lincoln did lose the senatorship but he stepped aside voluntarily for the sake of the party to bring about a unity of divided factions. His party won.

7. "Series of debates . . . (Douglas) gave no quarter to this misfit and failure . . . overwhelmingly defeated."

The popular vote for the candidates to the legislature favoring Lincoln was five thousand in excess of the vote poled by the candidates favoring Douglas. Lincoln by the popular vote won the debates. The legislature voted fifty-four to forty-six in favor of Douglas, not an overwhelming defeat for Lincoln.

8. "He had been unable to achieve one single personal victory in thirty years of constant effort."

It is difficult to account for such a statement as the above. He was elected to Illinois legislature at twenty-five years of age and to the same office at each biennial election for eight years, or as long as he chose to run. At twenty-seven years of age he was floor leader in the legislature, at twenty-nine years he was potential leader of the Whig party in Illinois. At thirty-one he was presidential elector for Harrison, at thirty-five elector at large for Clay, at thirty-nine the lone Whig congressman elected from the state of Illinois. In 1849 he declined a tentative appointment as Secretary of Oregon. In 1854 he was again elected to the legislature and in 1856 with no effort whatever on his part he received one hundred and ten votes in the first National Republican Convention as a nominee for the Vice-Presidency.

Congressman Abraham Lincoln Witnessed The Death-Stroke of John Quincy Adams February 21, 1848

(Continued from March 1963 issue)

In the letter already alluded to, dated June 1, 1848, Lincoln wrote the Reverend Henry Slicer pointing out that as he was not a member of the sub-committee of Arrangements "he had no knowledge of it whatever." Lincoln explained to the Chaplain that Mr. Charles Hudson, a Massachusetts Whig representative, and also a minister of the Universalist Church, was chairman of both the general and the sub-committees. Lincoln could not recall the names of the other members of Congress who served on the sub-committee.

Lincoln answered Slicer's queries as follows:

"To your first special interrogatory, to wit 'Were you consulted in regard to my exclusion from the services?' I answer, I was not—perhaps because the arrangements I have stated excluded me from consultation on all points.

"To the second, to wit: 'Was objection made to me—and if so, on what ground was it placed?' I answer I know nothing whatever on the point.

"To the third, to wit: 'Did my exclusion meet with your consent or approval?' I answer, I knew nothing of the matter, and, of course, did not consent to, or approve of it; and I may add, that I knew nothing which should have justified me in any attempt to put a mark of disapprobation upon you.

"So entirely ignorant was I, in relation to your having been excluded from the funeral services of Mr. Adams, that, until I received your letter, I should have given it as my recollection, that you did actually participate in those services."

The coffin of Mr. Adams was covered with black velvet

and ornamented with silver lace. The silver breastplate presented the following inscription:

John Quincy Adams
Born
An Inhabitant of Massachusetts, July 11, 1767
Died
A Citizen of the United States,
In the Capitol of Washington
February 23, 1848
Having Served his Country for Half a Century
and
Enjoyed its Highest Honors

On Saturday, February 26, 1848, the body of Adams was interred in the Congressional Burying Ground. However, the remains were deposited there only a few days, as the final interment was at Quincy, Massachusetts. Congressman John Wentworth was the Illinois Democratic delegate of the Committee of Thirty that accompanied the remains to Massachusetts. In Boston a committee of the Legislature of Massachusetts took charge of the ceremonies at Fanueil Hall and of the burial at Quincy, Massachusetts, Adams' home.

By a House resolution Adams' seat was to remain vacant for a period of thirty days. However, a political movement was not long in getting underway to elect Charles Frances Adams, the dead President's son, to the vacated seat. These political plans did not materialize and Horace Mann received the nomination and was subsequently elected.

A considerate gesture on the part of the Congress was a resolution passed by both houses granting "That all letters and packets carried to and from Louisa Catherine Adams, widow of the late John Quincy Adams, be conveyed free of postage during her natural life" (she died May 15, 1852).

One of the final Adams entries in *The Congressional Globe*, dated March 3, 1848, is the letter Mrs. Adams sent to the Speaker to be read (March 1, 1848) before the House of Representatives:

"Washington, February 29, 1848

Sir: The resolution in honor of my dear deceased husband, passed by the illustrious assembly over which you preside, and of which he at the moment of his death was a member, have been duly communicated to me.

Penetrated with grief at this distressing event of my life; mourning the loss of one who has been at once my example and my support through the trials of half a century, permit me nevertheless to express through you my deepest gratitude for the signal manner in which the public regard has been voluntarily manifested by your honorable body, and the consolation derived to me and mine from the reflection, that the unwearied efforts of an old public servant have not even in this world proved without their reward in the generous appreciation of them by his country.

With great respect, I remain, sir, your obedient servant,
Louisa Catherine Adams.

To the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop,
Speaker of the House of Representatives of the U.S."

On June 20, 1848, another resolution relating to the lamented Adams was brought before the House. "Resolved that the Committee on the Library of this House be authorized to procure a monument of Quincy granite, with suitable inscriptions to be erected in the Congressional burying grounds in memory of John Quincy Adams."

Perhaps the last resolution relating to the demise of Adams is dated March 3, 1949 when Mr. Ashmun presented a resolution that a bust of John Quincy Adams, by the artist John C. King, which had been procured by voluntary subscriptions, be placed in the Speaker's room "to mark the spot, and commemorate the circumstances of his death."

Thus, Abraham Lincoln while a member of the 30th Congress, witnessed the death stroke of one of the great men of our country and an outstanding figure in the diplomatic affairs of our nation.

(See *Lincoln Lore* No. 854, "Lincoln and John Quincy Adams" August 20, 1945).

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ABBREVIATIONS: ALS-Autograph Letter Signed; LS-Letter Signed

ADS-Autograph Document Signed; DS-Document Signed; p-Page

pp-Pages; 4to-Quarto; 8vo.-Octavo; 12mo.-Duodecimo

LIST: DI-5

[1] ADAMS, CHARLES F. Son of John Q. Adams; American Minister to Britain during the critical years of the Civil War. Fine ALS, lp., 4to. Legation of the United States, London, August 30, 1861. Interesting letter. \$4.50

[2] ADAMS, CHARLES F. Jr. Historian. Son of the above. ALS, lp. Boston, 20 Nov. 1869. Re. his book. Nice. \$2.00

[3] ADAMS, JOHN QUINCY. Lawyer, etc. Eldest son of Charles F. ALS, 2pp. 8vo. April 12, 1882. REMARKABLE LETTER, in which he refers to the Boston Elevated Railroad as a "blackmailing business" and "nefarious scheme" and expresses his hostility to its being built. \$3.50

[4] AN EXTRAORDINARY LETTER

ADAMS, John. 2nd President. ALS, lp., 4to., May 10, 1813. Written during the War of 1812. To [Col.] David Humphreys. Expertly silked on verso.

Speaking of General Dearborn's campaign against York (now Toronto, Canada) and Niagara, Adams writes:-

"Dearborn's Generalship is bold. It is setting an Example. SUCH AN ACT OF WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE SECURED HIM IMMORTALITY" etc.

Then comes this astonishing prediction:-

"We are to have a Partizan War upon the Lakes, and upon the American and British Borders of those Lakes. EITHER CANADA MUST CONQUER U.S. or U.S. MUST CONQUER CANADA. Never will there be, never can there be, tranquillity to either, TILL ONE OR THE OTHER IS MASTER. AMERICA, North and South, must be TOTALLY, ABSOLUTELY, AND ETERNALLY SEPARATED FROM EUROPE, OR IT MUST BE SUBJECTED TO EUROPE, OR IT MUST BE EVERLASTINGLY QUARRELLING WITH EUROPE."

Etc.

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[5] JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' LAST POEM

UNIQUE PRESIDENTIAL ITEM, being a holograph poem by the 6th President of the United States, written a day or two before he died. Probably, THE LAST THING HE WROTE.

Underneath the poem is a holograph presentation of the item by CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, son of the ex-President and himself a noted U.S. diplomatist.

"In days of yore the Poet's pen
From wing of bird was plunder'd
Perchance of goose, but now & then
From Eagle's pinion sunder'd.
But now metallic pens dislodge
Alone the Poet's numbers -
In iron, inspiration flows
Or with the Poet slumbers.

JOHN Q. ADAMS"

"N.B. Autograph of John Quincy Adams, written within a day or two of his last day, when seized in his place at the Capitol, 21 February 1848, by the disease of which he died 23 February.

Presented to Master Moor, then acting as page in the House of Representatives, on account of the kind attention paid by him to Mr. Adams during his last hours.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS

3 March 1848"

\$37.50

[6] ADAMS, JOHN QUINCY. ALS, lp., 4to. Quincy, June 9, 1831. To Rev. Thos. Gray, Jamaica Plains, Roxbury. Thanking him "for the valuable present of General Dearborn's Centennial Discourse, Yr Son's spirited and facetious Poem, your own Sermon ... " etc.

A Fine Letter: \$15.00

[7] ALBUM, containing the autographs of over 150 famous English personalities. Period 1920-1927. Pages measure 4 x 6 inches. On one page will be found "ALEXANDRA" (the Queen Mother), "ELIZABETH BOWES LYON" (now Queen Elizabeth), "ALBERT" (now King George VI), "EDWARD" (now Duke of Windsor), "HENRY" (now Duke of Gloucester). On another page "DAVID LLOYD GEORGE and MARGARET LLOYD GEORGE." On another page "STANLEY BALDWIN & LUCY BALDWIN." On another page "EARL HAIG & DOROTHY HAIG". On other pages:- the ASQUITHS, the SUTHERLANDS, the ELGINS, etc. etc.

Bargain: \$35.00

[8] ANDREW JACKSON COMMEMORATES THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

The glory won by Jackson when he defeated the British at The Battle of New Orleans, Jan. 8, 1815, made him a national hero and was remembered by his countrymen when they elected him to the Presidency in 1829. In this letter (LS, 2pp., 4to., Washington, Jan. 6, 1836) addressed to George M. Dallas, he responds to the invitation of the Democratic citizens of Philadelphia, to say something appropriate in commemoration of the VICTORY AT NEW ORLEANS, the 21st anniversary of which was to be celebrated on January 8th. JACKSON, writing AS PRESIDENT, says in part:-

"... I offer you a sentiment, the object of which will be to add another to the testimonials which cannot be too often repeated in honor of THE FIRMNESS AND BRAVERY DISPLAYED BY THE MILITIA OF OUR COUNTRY ON THAT OCCASION.

"The Victory of the 8th of January 1815 - THE FRUIT OF A JUST RELIANCE UPON THE PATRIOTISM AND INTELLIGENCE OF A FREE PEOPLE. The same reliance will always produce the same fruit WHEN THE INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY OF OUR COUNTRY ARE ASSAILED."

\$100.00

